

Remarks

Claims 1-16 are pending herein. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 7, 9 and 11 have been amended, and new claims 13-16 have been added.

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical and grammatical errors.

Claims 1, 7, 9 and 11 have been amended to recite that the printing mechanism prints the bundling tape with a plurality of colors, each of said colors indicating a denomination of a corresponding one of the bank note stacks to be bundled. Support for this recitation can be found in the specification at, e.g., page 15, lines 30-33, and Figure 4.

New claims 13 and 14 depend upon claims 1 and 7, respectively, and recite that the tape winding unit further comprises an endless belt for moving the tape gripper. New claims 15 and 16 depend upon claims 9 and 11, respectively, and recite that the tape winding unit further comprises an endless belt for rotating the tape gripper. Support for the new claims can be found in the specification at, e.g., page 14, lines 16-17 and Figure 2.

In the Office Action, claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,938,009 to Takami ("Takami").

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the Office Action.

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Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-16 would not have been obvious over Takami.

As pointed out above, claims 1, 7, 9 and 11 have been amended to recite that the printing mechanism (which is located in the tape feed passage) prints the bundling tape with a plurality of colors, each of said colors indicating a denomination of a corresponding one of the bank note stacks to be bundled. Takami does not teach a printing mechanism, particularly a printing mechanism like that recited in claims 1, 7, 9 and 11.

The tape winding unit in Applicant's claimed invention is "configured to wind the bundling tape round the bank note stack by moving the tape gripper gripping the leading end part of the bundling tape". On the other hand, the tape winding unit in Takami is configured to wind

the strap (B) around the package (A) by tightening the strap (B) that has been fed along the arch (12) by using the elasticity of the strap (B) itself. Thus, Takami does not teach or suggest the tape winding unit recited in the instant claims.

Takami also would not have rendered new claims 13-16 obvious. Claims 13-16 recite that the tape winding unit further comprises an endless belt for moving or rotating the tape gripper. As can be seen in Figure 2, endless belt 4 is in contact with the gripper, not the tape itself. The corresponding feature in Takami, i.e., arch 12, is a rigid guide rail rather than an endless belt, and is in direct contact with the strap (B). Thus, Takami does not teach or suggest the endless belt recited in claims 13-16.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and results, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection set forth in the Office Action be withdrawn and that claims 1-16 be allowed.

If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to Deposit Account 02-4300; Order No. 033458M003.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: (1) Petition for Extension of Time
(2) Check for the Sum of \$120